

NETHERLANDS

This review has been checked and approved by Inge van der Jagt (Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands), 19 December 2023.

Country: Netherlands
Type: National
Name: Nationale Onderzoeksagenda Archeologie (NOaA) (versie 2.0) – National archeological research agenda (version 2.0.)

NB. In the Netherlands provinces, regions and municipalities are also encouraged to develop their own research agendas. There is not 100% coverage, but several research agendas exist supporting lower level tiers of government. These research agendas are made accessible by the Cultural Heritage Agency through:

<https://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/onderwerpen/bronnen-en-kaarten/overzicht/lokale-onderzoeksagendas-archeologie>

Who has created /funded the framework?

The research agenda has been created by the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands within the Knowledge for Informed Choices programme. This programme was funded by the national government.

Who owns the framework?

It is owned and kept updated yearly by the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands.

What was the process of creating the framework?

- Consultations of local, provincial and regional authorities and archeological agencies in the preparatory stage.
- Staff of the Cultural Heritage Agency's Archaeology Department reviewed changes since the publication of the National Archaeological Research Agenda 1.0, including identifying prominent research undertaken, which research questions had been answered and new knowledge gained.
- The results of this exercise were discussed with the archaeological community at an open workshop. This resulted in the production of an initial draft list of National Archaeological Research Agenda 2.0
- The initial draft agenda was written up by staff of the Cultural Heritage Agency's Archaeology Department to produce a second draft version.
- Consultation on the second draft agenda by the archaeological community
- Proposed changes were collected and tested against the agreed aims and principles established to create National Archaeological Research Agenda 2.0 by staff of the Cultural Heritage Agency's Archaeology Department. This gave rise to a third draft.
- The third draft discussed at an open meeting.
- Final list of research questions adopted and published.

Aims and objectives of the framework

Who is it for?

The National Archaeological Research Agenda 2.0 is designed to feed and guide development-led archaeology. The main focus is to support those people and organisations responsible for making choices in the context of archaeological heritage management. This means local authorities and their advisors, and those responsible for writing Project Designs - frequently done by archaeological contractors.

What is it for?

The NOaA 2.0 is intended as a starting point and source of inspiration for making choices and formulating policy, for example with regard to the formulation of research question for archaeological excavations (via project designs) and the development or modification of regional, provincial or local research agendas.

The “making choices” philosophy is necessary because it is not possible to investigate or analyse everything from a site. It is necessary to have a focus, not just for scientific reasons but also to maximise public benefit. In this way optimal results can be achieved in terms of costs versus benefits.

Structure and content of the framework

What does it contain?

Research questions (arranged by theme) accompanied by: explanatory notes, instructions for making the transition to fieldwork (operationalisation), and relevant background information (core publications).

How is it structured?

The research questions are ordered by theme (there are 23 overarching research themes). A few themes relate to a time period.

Each question is provided with metadata so they can be accessed via four search filters: place, period, subject and site type.

What period/themes does it cover?

Research themes:

1. Gaps in our knowledge
2. Landscape dynamics
3. Use of water
4. Riverine and coastal settlement and adaptation
5. Social and economic differentiation
6. Emigration, immigration, acculturation
7. The archaeology of ritual
8. Conflict archaeology
9. Death and burial
10. The earliest settlement
11. Transition from the Late Palaeolithic to the Early Mesolithic

12. The Neolithisation process
13. Farming life established
14. The role of natural food sources after the introduction of agriculture
15. The *limes*: organization and interaction
16. Transition Roman to Early Middle Ages
17. 'Frankisation' and Christianisation
18. Formation of villages
19. The development of cities
20. The relationship between city and countryside
21. Dynamics of land use
22. Human-material cultural relationships
23. Networks and infrastructure

Outputs

Format

Websites: the Dutch Archaeological Research Agenda 2.0 is designed as a flexible web-based information system.

Paper in English discussing the selection process and the basic principles used to formulate the questions: Groenewoudt, B.G., M.C. Eerden, T. de Groot & E.M. Theunissen 2017: Answers to questions. The new National Archaeological Research Agenda of the Netherlands, in: Lauwerier et al., *Knowledge for Informed Choices. Tools for more effective and efficient selection of valuable archaeology in the Netherlands*, Amersfoort (Nederlandse Archeologische Rapporten 55), 179–194.

Date of publication

First publication of NOaA 2.0: April 2016
The research agenda is updated every year.

Where can you find it?

<https://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/onderwerpen/bronnen-en-kaarten/overzicht/nationale-onderzoeksagenda-archeologie>

<https://noaa.cultureelerfgoed.nl/search>